

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 SCEM-02 SCI-06 INT-08

TRSE-00 COME-00 NEA-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 /186 W

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P R 071820Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8589

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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DEPT PASS MINIMIZED POSTS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, GW

SUBJECT: THE FRG PROPOSED DOMESTIC MEASURES TO MEET
POSSIBLE OIL SHORTFALL

1. ON NOVEMBER 7 THE FRG CABINET APPROVED DRAFT
LEGISLATION GIVING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BROAD
AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH AN OIL SHORTFALL BY MEANS OF
SUCH MEASURES AS GASOLINE RATIONING. THE LEGISLATION
ENTITLED "DRAFT LAW TO ASSURE THE ENERGY SUPPLY IN CASE
OF A THREAT TO OR A DISTURBANCE IN PETROLEUM AND
NATURAL GAS IMPORTS" WAS IMMEDIATELY INTRODUCED INTO
THE BUNDESTAG BY THE BUNDESTAG FACTIONS OF THE SPD AND
P AND HAD ITS FIRST READING THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER
7. IT WAS REFERRED TO THE BUNDESTAG ECONOMICS, FINANCE,
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LEGAL, AND BUDGET COMMITTEES FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION.

THE 2ND AND 3RD BUNDESTAG READINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 9, TO BE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY THE REQUIRED BUNDESRAT READING AND FEDERAL PRESIDENT ENACTMENT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE LEGISLATION WILL BE IN EFFECT BY THE END OF THIS WEEK.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE ON NOVEMBER 7, FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICHS DESCRIBED THE DRAFT LAW AS AN AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE CERTAIN LEGAL ORDINANCES TO ASSURE THE ADEQUATE ENERGY SUPPLY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. FRIDERICHS ADDED THAT CHANCELLOR BRANDT INFORMED THE LEADERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES BY LETTER THAT NO ORDINANCES WOULD BE ISSUED WITHOUT THE LEADERS BEING ADEQUATELY INFORMED ABOUT THEM. ACCORDING TO FRIDERICHS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NO PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING SPECIFIC ORDINANCES AT THE PRESENT TIME. FRIDERICHS CONCEDED, THAT ACCORDING TO CRUDE OIL IMPORTING FIRMS, THE FLOW OF CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCTS INTO THE FRG MAY DECLINE BY 10 TO 15 PERCENT BY END OF NOVEMBER OR BEGINNING OF DECEMBER.

3. AS EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE SUBJECTS FOR ORDINANCES, FRIDERICHS MENTIONED GASOLINE CONSUMPTION;
1) A BAN ON SUNDAY AND HOLIDAY DRIVING, WHICH WOULD REDUCE GAS CONSUMPTION BY 8-10 PERCENT. WITH AN INCREASE TO 15 PERCENT IF SATURDAY AFTERNOONS WERE INCLUDED;
100 KM/HOUR SPEED LIMIT ON AUTOBAHNS (SAVING ANOTHER 5 PERCENT); 2) QUALIFIED DRIVING RESTRICTIONS (UNSPECIFIED) AND 3) RATIONING OF GASOLINE.

4. WITH REGARD TO HEAVY HEATING OIL FRIDERICHS IMPLIED THAT AT PRESENT THERE WERE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES AND THAT, IF NEEDED, 11.5 MILLIONS TONS COULD BE SAVED BY CONVERSION TO COAL IN THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES: STEEL 2.5 MILLION TONS; ELECTRICAL POWER 6.0 MILLION TONS; OTHER INDUSTRY 3.0 MILLION TONS.

5. FRIDERICHS DID NOT SPECULATE ON THE FUTURE SUPPLY SITUATION FOR LIGHT HEATING OIL.
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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